GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4112
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015
Sweepers in Railways
Singh Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sweepers of the railways are mandated to wear gloves and other protective equipment, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether hygiene awareness workshops are conducted for sweepers, if so, the details thereof and the number of workshops undertaken in the past three years, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the latest technology/equipment is used to clean train toilets and tracks, if so, the details thereof and the number and names of trains on which such technology has been introduced and the percentage of tracks cleaned through this technology;

(d) whether the Government plans to introduce such technology on all trains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a): Yes, Madam. All protective gears and devices notified by the Government, such as uniform, apron, face mask / nose mask, gloves, shoes, floor mopper / broom with long handle, toilet commode brush / hand brush or any equipment for removal of choking of toilets in coaches are provided to persons employed in cleaning activities.

(b): Safai Karamcharis are regularly educated as a part of both modular training programme and on-job training.

(c): Rag picking from railway tracks outside station area is being done on periodic manner. Contracts for mechanized cleaning, rag picking and garbage disposal are awarded by Zonal Railways for ensuring proper cleanliness at station. In such contracts, conditions exist for use of prescribed protective gears and devices by persons involved in the cleaning of tracks and platforms. Besides use of handheld devices, high pressure jet machines, electrical scrubbers, vacuum cleaners are used in cleaning coach toilets of mail/express as well as passengers trains maintained in around 123 coaching depots on Zonal Railways.

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. Cleaning of train toilets using aforesaid technology is a continuous process.
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